

Patent Application
Docket #20661/457



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label No. *IB 885 275 721*
Date of Deposit *January 31, 1996*

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231

Type or Print Name

JEANNE A. HOWARD

Signature

Jeanne A. Howard

METHOD, APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND FIRMWARE FOR SECURE
TRANSACTIONS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/004,510, filed September 29, 1995.

5 The following applications of common assignee contain related subject matter and are hereby incorporated by reference:

3017 Serial No.: *08/595,014* ~~unknown~~, filed January 31, 1996,

entitled METHOD, APPARATUS, AND SYSTEM FOR

10 TRANSFERRING UNITS OF VALUE;

2

Serial No.: ^{08/594,975}~~unknown~~, filed January 31, 1996,

entitled TRANSFER OF VALUABLE INFORMATION BETWEEN A
SECURE MODULE AND ANOTHER MODULE.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Technical Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method, apparatus
and firmware used for secure transactions. In
particular, in an electronic module based system, the
module can be configured to provide at least secure data
10 transfers, digital signatures or to authorize monetary
transactions.

Description of Related Art

Presently, credit cards that have a magnetic strip
associated with them, are a preferred monetary
15 transaction medium in the market place. A card user can
take the card to an automatic cash machine, a local store
or a bank and make monetary transactions. In many
instances the card is used via a telephone interface to
make monetary exchanges. The magnetic strip card is used
20 to help identify the card and user of the card. The card
provides a relatively low level of security for the

transfer. Regardless, the card enables a card holder to buy products, pay debts and make monetary exchanges between separate bank accounts.

5 Improvements have been made to the magnetic strip card. There have been cards created with microcircuits instead of magnetic strips. In general the microcircuit, like a magnetic strip, is used to enable a card-reader to perform a transaction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention is an apparatus, system and method for communicating encrypted information between a preferably portable module and a service provider's equipment. The invention comprises a module, that has a
15 unique identification, that is capable of creating a random number, for example, a SALT, and passing the random number, along with, for example, a request to exchange money, to a service provider's equipment. The service provider's equipment may in return encrypt the
20 random number with a private or public key (depending on the type of transaction), along with other information

and pass the encrypted information back to the module as
a signed certificate. The module, upon receiving the
signed certificate, will decrypt the certificate with a
public or private key (depending on the type of
5 transaction) and compare the decrypted number with the
original random number. Furthermore, if the numbers are
the same then the transaction that was requested may be
deemed secure and thereby proceeds. The module is
capable of time stamping and storing in memory
10 information about the transaction for later review.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete understanding of the method and
apparatus of the present invention may be had by
reference to the following Detailed Description when
15 taken in conjunction with the accompanying Drawings
wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a
module;

FIGURE 2 is an exemplary process for creating a
20 transaction group;

4

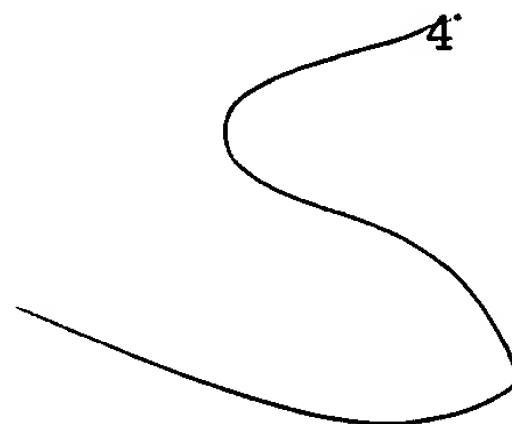


FIGURE 3 is an exemplary technique for receiving an E-mail message;

FIGURE 4 is an exemplary technique for preparing a module for notary functions;

5 FIGURE 5 is an exemplary technique for using the module as a notary;

FIGURE 6 is an exemplary technique for preparing a module to perform a money transaction;

10 FIGURE 7 is an exemplary technique for performing a money transaction using a module;

FIGURE 8 is an exemplary technique for performing a money transaction using a module;

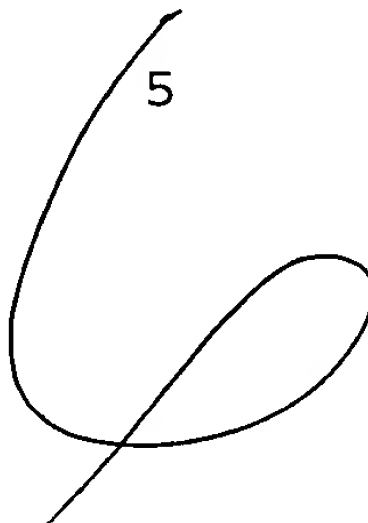
FIGURE 9 is an exemplary technique for performing a money transaction using a module;

15 FIGURE 10 is an exemplary technique for passing data over a network;

FIGURE 11 is an exemplary organization of the software and firmware within a module; and

20 FIGURE 12 is an exemplary configuration of software and firmware within a module.

5



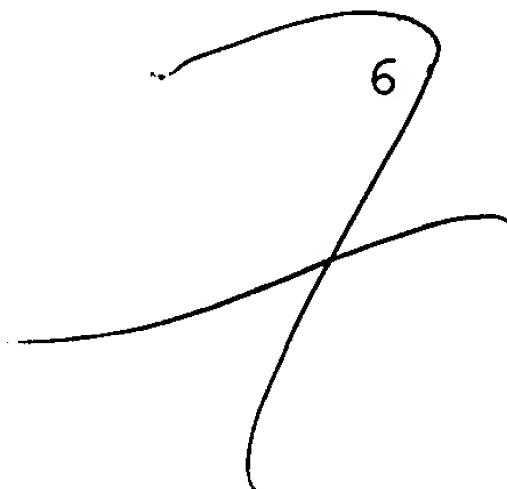
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PRESENTLY PREFERRED EXEMPLARY
EMBODIMENT

FIGURE 1 depicts a block diagram of an exemplary module 10 that incorporates an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The module circuitry can be a single integrated circuit. It is understood that the module 10 could also be on multiple integrated or discrete element circuits combined together. The module 10 comprises a microprocessor 12, a real time clock 14, control circuitry 16, a math coprocessor 18, memory circuitry 20, input/output circuitry 26, and an energy circuit.

The module 10 could be made small enough to be incorporated into a variety of objects including, but not limited to a token, a card, a ring, a computer, a wallet, a key fob, badge, jewelry, stamp, or practically any object that can be grasped and/or articulated by a user of the object.

The microprocessor 12 is preferably an 8-bit microprocessor, but could be 16, 32, 64 or any operable

6



number of bits. The clock 14 provides timing for the module circuitry. There can also be separate clock circuitry 14 that provides a continuously running real time clock.

5 The math coprocessor circuitry 18 is designed and used to handle very large numbers. In particular, the coprocessor will handle the complex mathematics of RSA encryption and decryption.

10 The memory circuitry 20 may contain both read-only-memory and non-volatile random-access-memory. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that volatile memory, EPROM, SRAM and a variety of other types of memory circuitry could be used to create an equivalent device.

15 Control circuitry 16 provides timing, latching and various necessary control functions for the entire circuit.

8

An input/output circuit 26 enables bidirectional communication with the module 10. The input/output circuitry 26 preferably comprises at least an output buffer 28 and an input buffer. For communication via a one-wire bus, one-wire interface circuitry 32 can be included with the input/output circuitry 26.

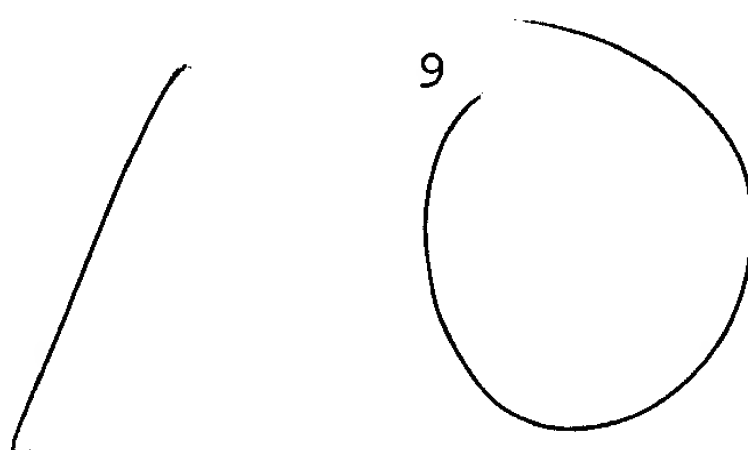
An energy circuit 34 may be necessary to maintain the memory circuitry 20 and/or aid in powering the other circuitry in the module 10. The energy circuit 34 could consist of a battery, capacitor, R/C circuit, photovoltaic cell, or any other equivalent energy producing circuit or means.

The firmware architecture of a preferred embodiment of a secure transaction module and a series of sample applications using the module 10 will now be discussed. These examples are intended to illustrate a preferred feature set of the module 10 and to explain the services that the module offers. These applications by no means limit the capabilities of the invention, but instead bring to light a sampling of its capabilities.

I. OVERVIEW OF THE PREFERRED MODULE AND ITS FIRMWARE DESIGN

The module 10 preferably contains a general-purpose, 8051-compatible micro controller 12 or a reasonably similar product, a continuously running real-time clock 14, a high-speed modular exponentiation accelerator for large integers (math coprocessor) 18, input and output buffers 28, 30 with a one-wire interface 32 for sending and receiving data, 32 Kbytes of ROM memory 22 with preprogrammed firmware, 8 Kbytes of NVRAM (non-volatile RAM) 24 for storage of critical data, and control circuitry 16 that enables the micro controller 12 to be powered up to interpret and act on the data placed in an input circuitry 26. The module 10 draws its operating power from the one-wire line. The micro controller 12, clock 14, memory 20, buffers 28, 30, one-wire front-end 32, modular exponentiation accelerator 18, and control circuitry 16 are preferably integrated on a single silicon chip and packaged in a stainless steel microcan using packaging techniques which make it virtually impossible to probe the data in the NVRAM 24 without

9



destroying the data. Initially, most of the NVRAM 24 is available for use to support applications such as those described below. One of ordinary skill will understand that there are many comparable variations of the module design. For example, volatile memory can be used, or an interface other than a one-wire could be used. The silicon chip can be packaged in credit cards, rings etc.

The module 10 is preferably intended to be used first by a Service Provider who loads the module 10 with data to enable it to perform useful functions, and second by an End User who issues commands to the module 10 to perform operations on behalf of the Service Provider for the benefit of the End User. For this reason, the module 10 offers functions to support the Service Provider in setting up the module for an intended application. It also offers functions to allow the End User to invoke the services offered by the Service Provider.

Each Service Provider can reserve a block of NVRAM memory to support its services by creating a transaction group 40 (refer to FIGURES 11 and 12). A transaction

group 40 is simply a set of objects 42 that are defined
by the Service Provider. These objects 42 include both
data objects (encryption keys, transaction counts, money
amounts, date/time stamps, etc.) and transaction scripts
5 44 which specify how to combine the data objects in
useful ways. Each Service Provider creates his own
transaction group 40, which is independent of every other
transaction group 40. Hence, multiple Service Providers
can offer different services in the same module 10. The
10 number of independent Service Providers that can be
supported depends on the number and complexity of the
objects 42 defined in each transaction group 40.
Examples of some of the objects 42 that can be defined
within a transaction group 40 are the following:

TI 20 X
15

RSA Modulus

Clock Offset

RSA Exponent

Random SALT

Transaction Script

Configuration Data

Transaction Counter

Input Data

Money Register

Output Data

20

Destructor

Within each transaction group 40 the module 10 will initially accept certain commands which have an irreversible effect. Once any of these irreversible commands are executed in a transaction group 40, they remain in effect until the end of the module's useful life or until the transaction group 40, to which it applies, is deleted from the module 10. In addition, there are certain commands which have an irreversible effect until the end of the module's life or until a master erase command is issued to erase the entire contents of the module 10. These commands will be discussed further below. These commands are essential to give the Service Provider the necessary control over the operations that can be performed by the End User. Examples of some of the irreversible commands are:

T130X

Privatize Object

Lock Object

Lock Transaction Group

Lock Micro-In-A-Can™

Since much of the module's utility centers on its ability to keep a secret, the Privatize command is a very important irreversible command.

12
13

Once the module 10, as a whole, is locked, the remaining NVRAM memory 24 is allocated for a circular buffer for holding an audit trail of previous transactions. Each of the transactions are identified by the number of the transaction group, the number of the transaction script 40 within the specified group, and the date/time stamp.

The fundamental concept implemented by the firmware is that the Service Provider can store transaction scripts 44 in a transaction group 40 to perform only those operations among objects that he wishes the End User to be able to perform. The Service Provider can also store and privatize RSA key or keys (encryption keys) that allow the module 10 to "sign" transactions on behalf of the Service Provider, thereby guaranteeing their authenticity. By privatizing and/or locking one or more objects 42 in the transaction group 40, the Service Provider maintains control over what the module 10 is allowed to do on his behalf. The End User cannot add new transaction scripts 44 and is therefore limited to the operations on objects 42 that can be performed with the

transaction scripts 44 programmed by the Service
Provider.

II. USAGE MODELS OF THE MODULE

5 This section presents a series of practical
applications of the module 10, ranging from the simplest
to the most complex. Each of these applications is
described in enough detail to make it clear why the
module 10 is the central enabling technology for that
application.

10 A. BACKGROUND OF SECURE E-MAIL

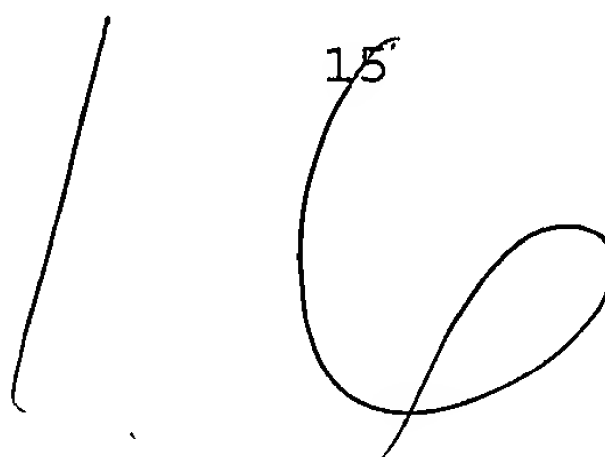
In this section we provide an example of how a
module 10 could be used to allow anyone to receive
his or her own e-mail securely at any location.

1. Standard E-Mail

15 In a standard e-mail system, a user's
computer is connected to a provider of Internet
services, and the user's computer provides an
e-mail password when polling the provider's
computer for new mail. The mail resides on the

provider's computer in plain text form, where
it can be read by anyone working there. In
addition, while traveling from its source, the
mail passes through many computers and was also
5 exposed at these locations. If the user
receives his mail from his provider over a
local area network, anyone else on the same
network can capture and read the mail.
Finally, with many e-mail systems that do not
10 require the user to enter the password, anyone
sitting at the user's computer can retrieve and
read his mail, since his computer automatically
provides the password when it polls the
provider's computer.

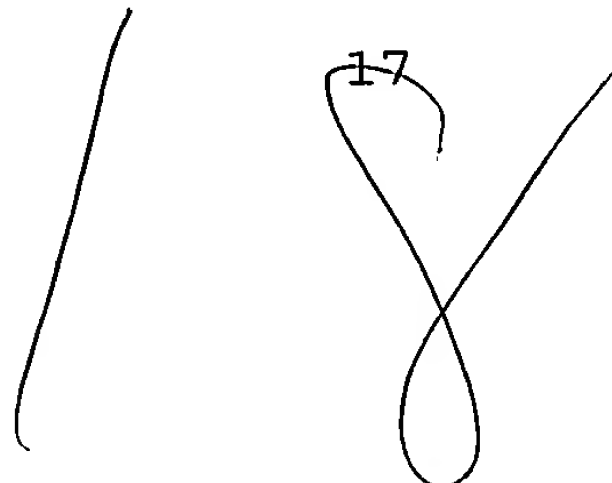
15 It is frequently also possible to copy the
password from a configuration file in the
user's computer and use it to read his mail
from a different computer. As a result of this
broad distribution of the e-mail in plain text
20 form and the weakness of password protection,
standard e-mail is regarded as very insecure.

15


To counter this problem, the security system known as P.G.P. (Pretty Good Privacy) was devised. To use P.G.P., a user generates a complete RSA key set containing both a public and private component. He makes his public key widely available by putting it in the signature block of all his e-mail messages and arranging to have it posted in publicly accessible directories of P.G.P. public keys. He stores his private key on his own personal computer, perhaps in a password-protected form. When someone wishes to send private e-mail to this user, he generates a random IDEA encryption key and encrypts the entire message with the IDEA encryption algorithm. He then encrypts the IDEA key itself using the public key provided by the intended recipient. He e-mails both the message encrypted with IDEA and the IDEA key encrypted with the user's public key to the user. No one that sees this transmission can read it except the intended recipient because the message is encrypted with IDEA and the IDEA

key is encrypted with the intended recipient's
public key. The recipient's computer contains
the corresponding private key, and hence can
decrypt the IDEA key and use the decrypted IDEA
5 key to decrypt the message. This provides
security from those who might try to read the
user's mail remotely, but it is less effective
when the user's computer is accessible to
others because the computer, itself, contains
10 the private key. Even if the private key is
password protected, it is often easy to guess
the user's password or eavesdrop on him when he
enters it, so the user's computer provides
little security. In addition, the user can
15 receive secure e-mail only at his own computer
because his private key is stored in that
computer and is not available elsewhere.
Therefore, the weakness of P.G.P. is that it is
tied strongly to the user's computer where the
20 private key resides.

17

A handwritten mark consisting of a long diagonal stroke followed by a loop that crosses itself, with the number 17 written above the loop.

2. Module Protected E-Mail

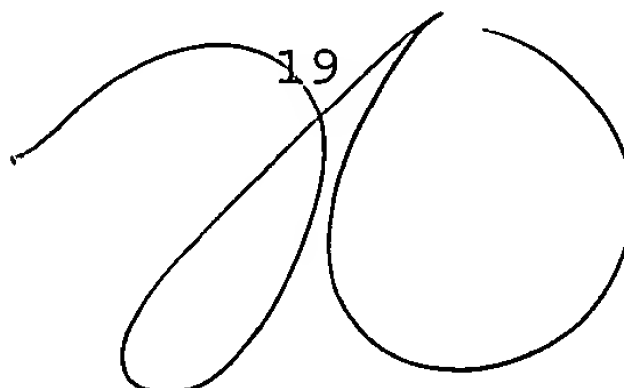
With the exemplary module 10 being used to protect e-mail, a user could have his e-mail forwarded to him wherever he goes without fear that it would be read by others or that his PC would be the weak link that compromises the security of his mail. The module protected e-mail system is similar to the P.G.P. system, except that the private key used for decrypting the IDEA key is stored in a privatized object in a transaction group of the module 10 instead of in a PC. The module protected e-mail system operates as follows:

a. Referring to FIGURES 2, 11 and 12, the user creates a transaction group 40, S1, generates an RSA key set S2 and loads it into three objects 42 of the transaction group 40 (one RSA modulus object, N, and two RSA exponent objects, E and D). He then privatizes the decryption exponent S3, D. Finally, he

5 creates a transaction script 44, S4 to
take data placed in the input data object,
encrypt it with the modulus N and private
exponent D and place the result in the
output data object. He locks the group S5
to prevent any additional transaction
scripts 44 from being added. He "forgets"
the value of D and publishes the values of
E and N in public directories and in the
10 signature blocks of his e-mail messages.
Since he has forgotten D and since the D
exponent object has been privatized, there
is no way that anyone will ever find out
the value of D.

15 b. Referring to FIGURE 3, to send
secure e-mail to the user, the P.G.P.
system is used. When the user receives
the secure e-mail A1, he transmits the
encrypted IDEA key into the input data
20 object of the transaction group 40, A2 and
then calls the transaction script 44 to

19

A handwritten signature or mark consisting of a large, stylized 'O' or '0' with a diagonal line through it, and a smaller loop to the left.

5 decrypt this key A3 and place the
decrypted result in the output data object
A4. He then reads the decrypted IDEA key
from the output data object and uses it to
decrypt his mail A5. Note that it is now
impossible for anyone, including the user,
to read any new mail without having
physical possession of the module 10.
There is therefore no way that a user's
10 mail can be read without his knowledge,
because the module 10 must be physically
present on the computer where the mail is
read. The user can carry his module 10
wherever he goes and use it to read his
15 forwarded mail anywhere. His home
computer is not the weak point in the
security system.

Secure e-mail, as described above, is the
simplest possible module application, requiring only
20 one RSA key and one transaction script 44. It is
unnecessary even to store the public key E in the

module 10, but it is a good idea to do so because
the public key is supposed to be publicly
accessible. By storing E in an exponent object and
not privatizing that object or the modulus object,
N, the user insures that the public key can always
be read from the module 10. There are no
transaction scripts 44 involving E because the
module 10 will never be required to perform an
encryption.

10 B. DIGITAL NOTARY SERVICE

This section describes a preferred notary
service using the module 10.

1. Background of a Standard Notary Service

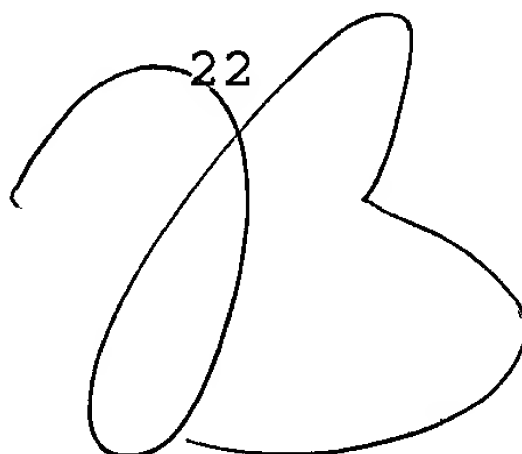
15 A conventional Notary Service Provider
receives and examines a document from an End
User and then supplies an uncounterfeitable
mark on the document signifying that the
document was presented to the notary on a
certain date, etc. One application of such a
20 notary service could be to record disclosures

of new inventions so that the priority of the invention can later be established in court if necessary. In this case, the most important service provided by the notary is to certify that the disclosure existed in the possession of the inventor on a certain date. (The traditional method for establishing priority is the use of a lab notebook in which inventors and witnesses sign and date disclosures of significant inventions.)

2. Electronic Notary Service Using The Module

A company, hereafter referred to as the Service Provider, decides to go into business to supply a notary service (strictly, a priority verification service) for its customers, hereafter referred to as the End Users. The Service Provider chooses to do this by using the module 10 as its "agents" and gives them the authority to authenticate (date and sign) documents on his behalf. The

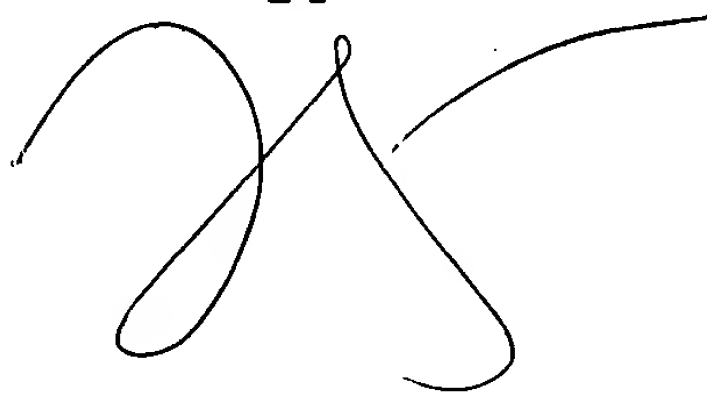
22

A large, stylized handwritten signature or mark, possibly a cursive 'B' or a similar symbol, is written over the page number 22.

5 c. The Service Provider reads the
real-time clock 14 from each module 10 and
creates a clock offset object that
contains the difference between the
reading of the real-time clock 14 and some
convenient reference time (e.g., 12:00
a.m. January 1, 1970). The true time can
then be obtained from any module 10 by
adding the value of the clock offset
10 object to the real-time clock B3.

d. The Service Provider creates a
transaction sequence counter object
initialized to zero B4.

15 e. The Service Provider creates a
transaction script 44 which appends the
contents of the input data object to the
true time (sum of real-time clock 14 and
the value of the clock offset object)
followed by the value of the transaction
20 counter followed by the unique lasered

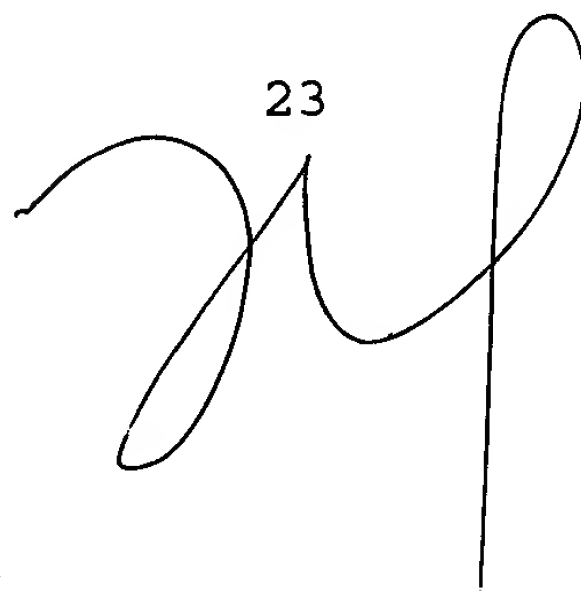
A large, stylized handwritten mark, possibly a signature or initials, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

preferred operation of this system is as follows:

5 a. Referring to FIGURES 4, 11 and 12, the Service Provider creates a transaction group 40 for performing electronic notary functions in a "registered lot" of modules 10, B1.

10 b. The Service Provider uses a secure computing facility to generate an RSA key set and program the set into every module 10 as a set of three objects 42, a modulus object and two exponent objects B2. The public part of the key set is made known as widely as possible, and the private part is forgotten completely by the Service Provider. The private exponent object is privatized to prevent it from being read back from the modules 10.

23

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' or 'W' shape with a vertical line extending downwards from the right side.

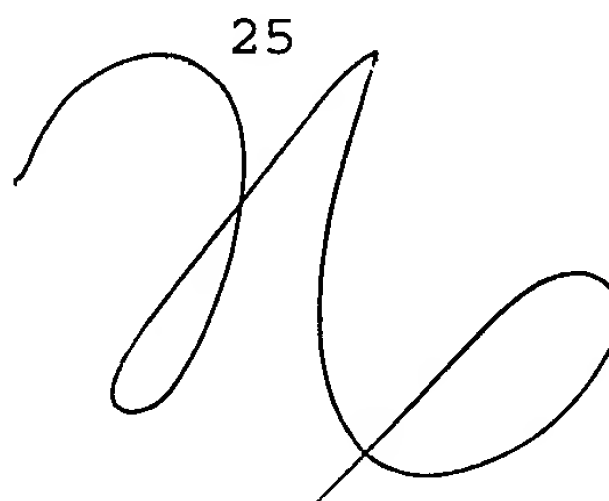
registration number. The transaction script 44 then specifies that all of this data be encrypted with the private key and placed in the output data object. The instructions to perform this operation are stored in the transaction group 40 as a transaction script object B5.

f. The Service Provider privatizes any other objects 42 that it does not wish to make directly readable or writable B6.

g. The Service Provider locks the transaction group 40, preventing any additional transaction scripts 44 from being added B7.

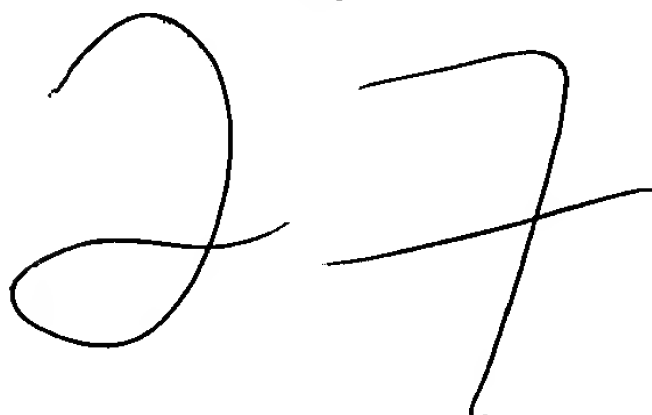
h. Referring to FIGURE 5, now the Service Provider distributes the modules to paying customers (End Users) to use for notary services. Anytime an End User wishes to have a document certified, the

25

A handwritten signature or mark, possibly a stylized 'N' or 'Z', is written in black ink. The number '25' is written above the mark.

5 End User performs the Secure Hash
Algorithm (Specified in the Secure Hash
Standard, FIPS Pub. 180) to reduce the
entire document to a 20 byte message
digest. The End User then transmits the
20 byte message digest to the input data
object C1 and calls on the transaction
script 44 to bind the message digest with
the true time, transaction counter, and
10 unique lasered serial number and to sign
the resulting packet with the private key
C2.

15 i. The End User checks the
certificate by decrypting it with the
public key and checking the message
digest, true time stamp, etc. to make sure
they are correct C3. The End User then
stores this digital certificate along with
the original copy of the document in
20 digital form C4. The Service Provider

A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly reading '27', is written in black ink at the bottom center of the page.

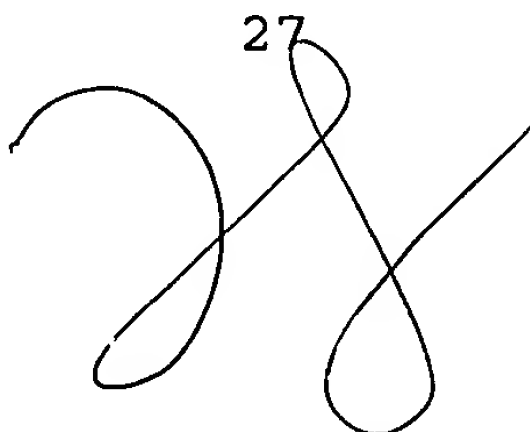
will attest to the authenticity of the
certificates produced by its modules.

5 j. After a period of time specified
by the Service Provider, the user returns
his module 10, pays a fee, and gets a new
module containing a new private key. The
old modules can be recycled by erasing the
entire transaction group and reprogramming
them. The Service Provider maintains an
10 archive of all the public keys it has ever
used so that it can testify as needed to
the authenticity of old certificates.

C. DIGITAL CASH DISPENSER

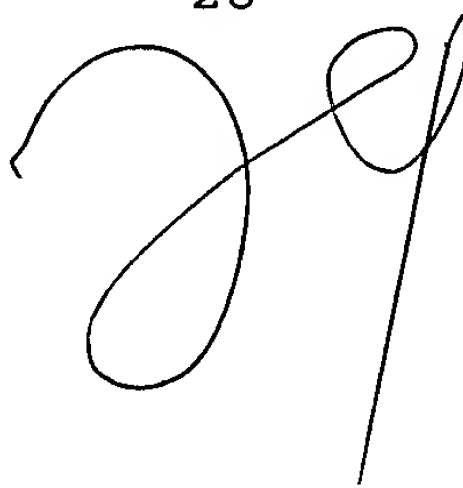
15 This exemplary usage model focuses on the
module 10 as a cash reservoir from which payments
can be made for goods or services. (To simplify the
discussion, the subject of refilling the module 10
with cash is postponed until later). In this case
the Service Provider is a bank or other financial
20 institution, the End User is the bank's customer who

27



wishes to use the module 10 to make purchases, and
the Merchant is the provider of the purchased goods
or services. The roles of the Service Provider, the
Merchant, and the End User in these transactions are
5 explained in detail below.

The fundamental concept of the digital cash
purse as implemented in the module 10 is that the
module 10 initially contains a locked money object
containing a given cash value, and the module 10 can
10 generate, on demand, certificates which are
essentially signed documents attesting to the fact
that the amount of money requested was subtracted
from the value of the money object. These signed
documents are equivalent to cash, since they attest
15 to the fact that the internal money object was
decreased in value by an amount corresponding to the
value of the certificate. The merchant can redeem
these certificates for cash by returning them to the
Service Provider.

A large, stylized handwritten mark, possibly a signature or a large 'Z', is drawn over the page number 28.

When dealing with digital certificates representing cash, "replay" or duplication is a fundamental problem. Since digital data can be copied and retransmitted easily, it differs from
5 ordinary coins or paper money which are difficult to reproduce because of the special technology that is used in their manufacture. For this reason, the receiver of the payment must take special steps to insure that the digital certificate he receives is
10 not a replay of some previously issued certificate. This problem can be solved by having the payee generate a random "SALT", a challenge number, and provide it to the payer.

SALT is a method of preventing replay. A
15 random number is sent and used in a challenge/response mode. The other party is challenged to return the random number as part of their response.

The payer constructs a signed certificate which
20 includes both the money amount and the payee's SALT.

30

When the payee receives this certificate, he
decrypts it with the public key, checks the money
amount, and then confirms that the SALT is the same
as the one he provided. By personalizing the
5 certificate to the payee, the payer proves to the
payee that the certificate is not a duplicate or
replay and is therefore authentic. This method can
be used regardless of whether the module 10 is the
payer or the payee.

10 Another problem that must be addressed is
irreputability. This means that none of the
parties to the transaction should be able to argue
that he did not actually participate in the
transaction. The transaction record (money
15 certificate) should contain elements to prove that
each party to the transaction was a willing
participant.

1. Background Conventional Cash Transactions

In a conventional cash transaction, the End User first receives Federal Reserve Notes from a bank and the bank subtracts the equivalent amount of money from the balance in his account. The End User can verify the authenticity of the Federal Reserve Notes by means of the "public key", which includes:

- a. Magnetic ink attracted by a magnet.
- b. Red and blue threads imbedded in the paper.
- c. Microfine printing surrounding the engraved portrait.
- d. Embedded stripe printed with USA and denomination of the note.

The "private key" to this system is the details of how the raw materials for printing money are obtained and how the money is

32

✓ actually printed. This information is retained
by the government and not revealed.

5 These notes are carried by the End User to
the Merchant, where they are exchanged for
goods or services. The Merchant also uses the
"public key" of the notes to verify that they
are legitimate.

10 Finally, the Merchant carries the notes to
a Bank, where the "public key" is again
examined by the teller. If the notes are
legitimate, the Merchant's bank account balance
is increased by the face value of the notes.

15 The end result of this transaction is that
the End User's bank balance is reduced, the
Merchant's bank balance is increased by the
same amount, the goods or services are
transferred from the Merchant to the End User,
and the Federal Reserve Notes are ready to be
reused for some other transaction.

2. Exemplary Monetary Transactions Using The Module

Monetary transactions using the module 10 and digital certificates are somewhat more complicated because digital data, unlike Federal Reserve Notes, can be copied and duplicated easily. Nevertheless, the use of "SALTs" and transaction sequence numbers can guarantee the authenticity of digital certificates. (In the following discussion, it is assumed that every party to the transaction has its own RSA key set with a private key that it is able to keep secret.)

a. Referring to FIGURE 6, the Service Provider (bank) prepares the module 10 by creating a transaction group 40 containing a money object representing the monetary value stored in the module 10. The Service Provider also creates a transaction count object, a modulus

5 object, and an exponent object and stores
the provider's private key in the exponent
object D1. He privatizes the key so that
it cannot be read D2. Next, he stores a
transaction script 44 in the transaction
group 40 to perform the monetary
transaction and locks the group so that no
further objects can be made D3, D4. (The
10 details of what this transaction script
does are described further below.)
Finally, he publishes the corresponding
public key widely so that anyone can
obtain it D5.

15 b. The End User receives the module
10 from the Service Provider, and the End
User's bank account is debited by the
amount stored in the module 10. Using a
PC or handheld computer, the End User can
interrogate the module 10 to verify that
20 the balance is correct.

5 c. Referring to FIGURE 7, when the
End User wishes to purchase some goods or
services from a Merchant E1, the Merchant
reads the unique lasered registration
number of the module and places it in a
packet along with a random SALT E2, E3.
The merchant then signs this packet with
the merchant's own private key E4 and
transmits the resulting encrypted packet
10 along with the amount of the purchase to
the input data object of the transaction
group 40, E5.

15 d. The Merchant then invokes the
transaction script 44 programmed into the
module 10 by the Service Provider. This
transaction script 44 subtracts the amount
of the purchase from the money object E6,
appends the value of the transaction
counter object to the contents of the
20 input data object E7, signs the resulting

packet with the private key, and places
the result in the output data object E8.

5 e. The Merchant then reads the
result from the output data object and
decrypts it with the Service Provider's
public key E9. He then confirms that the
amount of the purchase is correct and that
the remaining data is identical to the
packet he signed in step c., E10.

10 f. Having confirmed that the
certificate provided by the module 10 is
both authentic and original (not a
duplicate), the Merchant delivers the
goods or services E11. Later the Merchant
15 sends the digital certificate to a bank.

g. The bank decrypts the
certificate with the Service Provider's
public key E12, extracts the amount of the
purchase and the transaction count, and

5 decrypts the remaining data with the
Merchant's public key to reveal the unique
lasered registration number of the module
E14. The bank then looks up the module 10
by the unique lasered registration number
in a database to confirm that the
transaction count for this transaction has
not been submitted before. When this test
is passed, the bank adds the transaction
10 count value to the database, and then
increases the Merchant's bank balance by
the amount of the purchase E15. The fact
that portions of the certificate were
signed by both the module 10 and the
15 Merchant confirms that the transaction was
freely agreed to by both the Merchant and
the module 10.

Note that there are many different ways of
combining data combinations of the transaction
20 counter value, the unique lasered registration
number, the random SALT provided by payee, and the

37
38

amount of purchase, encrypted by the module's private key, the Merchant's private key, or both. Many of these combinations can also provide satisfactory guarantees of uniqueness, authenticity, and irreputability, and the design of the firmware allows the Service Provider flexibility in writing the transaction script 44 to serve his particular needs.

D. DIGITAL CASH REPLENISHMENT

The discussion of a digital cash purse in section II.C., above, did not address the issue of cash replenishment. The Service Provider can add cash replenishment capability to the module 10, as discussed in section II.C., simply by adding another modulus object and exponent object containing the Service Provider's public key, a random SALT object, and a transaction script 44 for adding money to the balance. The Service Provider can add money to a module 10 either in person or remotely over a network. The process of adding money is as follows:

39

1. Referring to FIGURE 8, the Service Provider reads the unique lasered registration number (ID number) of the module F1, F2 and calls on a transaction script 44 to return the value of a random SALT object. The module 10 calculates a new random SALT value from the previous value and the random number generator and returns it to the Service Provider F3.

2. The Service Provider places the random SALT returned by the module 10 in a packet along with the amount of money to be added and the unique lasered registration number of the module 10 and then encrypts the resulting packet with the Service Provider's private key F4. This encrypted packet is then written back into the input data object of the transaction group 40.

3. The Service Provider invokes a transaction script 44 which decrypts the contents of the input data object with the Service Provider's public key and then checks the unique lasered registration

number and the value of the random SALT against the one that it originally provided. If the SALT matches, the money amount is extracted from the packet and added to the value of the money object in the module F5.

Note that the inclusion of the unique lasered registration number is not strictly necessary, but it is included to insure that the Service Provider knows exactly which module is receiving the funds.

10 E. EXEMPLARY DESCRIPTION OF DIRECT TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN MODULES

15 Section II.C.2.g. above reveals a problem that occurs when the Merchant returns the digital certificates to his bank for crediting to his account. The Merchant's bank must either send the certificates back to the Service Provider for redemption, or have access to the Service Provider's records in a database so that it can determine whether the value of the transaction count object is
20 unique. This is inconvenient and requires

infrastructure. It also prevents any of the transactions from being anonymous (as they would have been if cash had been used), because the Merchant's bank must log used certificate numbers into a database to prevent them from being reused. These problems can all be eliminated by making use of fund transfers between modules. In addition, the steps required to accomplish a fund transfer between modules are considerably simpler than those described in section II.C.2.

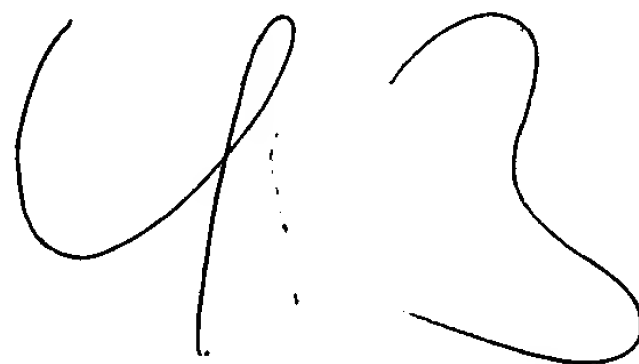
In the discussion which follows, it is assumed that the Merchant also has a module which he uses to collect the funds received from End Users (customers). The module in the possession of the End User will be called the Payer, and the module in the possession of the Merchant will be called the Payee. The steps to accomplish the funds transfer are as follows:

1. Referring to FIGURES 9, 11 and 12, using his computer, the Merchant calls on a transaction

script 44 in the Payee to provide a random SALT. He reads this SALT from the output object of the transaction group 40.

5 2. The Merchant copies the SALT and the
amount of the End User's purchase to the input data
✓ object of the Payer G1, then calls on a transaction
script 44 in the Payer to subtract the amount of the
purchase from the balance, combine the Payee's SALT
in a packet with the amount of the purchase, encrypt
10 the resulting package with the Service Provider's
private key, and return it in the output data object
G2.

15 3. The Merchant then reads this packet and
copies it to the input data object of the Payee,
then calls on a transaction script 44 in the Payee
to decrypt the packet with the Service Provider's
public key G3 and check the SALT against the one
originally generated by the Payee. If they agree,
the Payee adds the amount of the purchase to its
20 balance G4.



This completes the funds transfer. Note that this transaction effectively transferred the amount of the purchase from the Payer to the Payee, and the steps of the transaction were much simpler than the three-way
5 transaction described in II.C.2. The Merchant can transfer the balance to his bank account by a similar transaction in which the bank provides a SALT to Merchant's module and the Merchant's module prepares a certificate for the balance which it delivers to the
10 bank. Use of a module by the Merchant to collect funds simplifies the transaction, eliminates the need for a database to confirm uniqueness, and preserves the anonymity of the End User that would normally result from a cash transaction.

15 F. EXEMPLARY TRANSACTIONS WITH A MODULE OVER A NETWORK

The transactions described in section II.C.2., II.D. and II.E. above could also be performed over a network, allowing a physical separation between
20 the Merchant, End User, and modules. However, this could produce a potential problem because one of the

communications to the module 10 is unencrypted and
therefore subject to falsification. To avoid this
problem, both parties must produce a SALT so that
the other can demonstrate its ability to encrypt the
5 SALT with the Service Provider's private key and
therefore prove authenticity. The operation of this
protocol is described as follows as it relates to
the transfer of funds between modules (section II.E.
above). This method can be employed to allow any of
10 the transactions described above to take place over
a network. This clearly enables secure electronic
commerce over the Internet.

1. Referring to FIGURE 10, 11 and 12, the
Payer generates a random SALT and transmits it over
15 the network to the Payee H1.

2. The Payee appends the amount of the
purchase to the Payer's SALT, followed by a SALT
randomly generated by the Payee. The Payee then
encrypts this packet with the Service Provider's
20 private key and sends it back to the Payer H2.

3. The Payer decrypts the packet with the Service Provider's public key H3, extracts the Payer SALT, and compares it with the SALT that the Payer provided in step 1. If they agree, the Payer subtracts the amount of the purchaser from its balance H4 and generates a certificate consisting of the amount of the purchase and the Payee's SALT, which it encrypts with the Service Provider's private key and returns to the Payee H5.

4. The Payee decrypts the packet with the Service Provider's public key H6, extracts the Payee SALT, and compares it with the SALT that the Payee provided in step 2. If they agree, the Payee adds the amount of the purchase to its balance H7.

The exchange of SALTs allows each module to confirm that it is communicating with another module, and that the funds transfer requested is therefore legitimate. The SALT comparison described in step 3 allows the Payer to confirm that the Payee is a legitimate module before the funds are withdrawn, and the comparison

45
46

described in step 4 allows the Payee to confirm that the Payer is a legitimate module 10 before the funds are deposited. The transactions described above provide the minimum necessary information in the encrypted packets to
5 confirm that the funds are being transferred from one module 10 to another. Other information, such as the unique lasered registration number, could be included (at the cost of anonymity) to provide additional information and greater control over the transaction.

10 G. AN EXEMPLARY TECHNIQUE FOR SOFTWARE
AUTHORIZATION AND USAGE METERING

The module 10 is well-suited for the tasks of enabling specific software features in a comprehensive software system and for metering usage
15 of those features. (This usage model parallels the previously described model for withdrawing money from a module 10.)

1. Preparation

Referring to FIGURES 11 and 12, the Service
Provider creates a transaction group 40 and stores
a configuration object in the group detailing which
5 software within the module 10 the End User is
allowed to use. The Service Provider also creates
a money object containing the allowed usage credit
(which could be in units of time rather than the
actual dollar amount), and stores and privatizes a
10 private RSA key pair to use for authentication. A
transaction script 44 is stored to receive a SALT
and the amount to withdraw from the End User,
decrement the balance by the amount withdrawn, and
output an RSA signed certificate containing the
15 amount withdrawn, the sale, and the value of the
configuration object.

2. Usage

At periodic intervals during the use of the
software within the module 10, the PC program
20 generates a random SALT and an amount to charge for
the use of the module 10 and transmits this

information to the module 10. The module 10
decrements the balance and returns the certificate.
The PC decrypts the certificate and confirms that
the SALT is the same, the amount withdrawn is
5 correct, and the use of the software within the
module 10 is authorized by the information stored in
the configuration object. If all of these tests are
successful, the module 10 executes for a specified
period of time or for a given number of operations
10 before asking the module 10 for another certificate.

There are many possible variations on this
usage model. For example, the transaction script 44
could also bind up the true time in the certificate
so that the application program running on the PC
15 could guarantee that the execution time is
accurately measured. (This would require the
Service Provider to create a clock offset object
during initialization to provide a reference for
measuring time.)

H. SIMULATION OF TRANSACTION TOUCH MEMORY™

5 This usage model describes how the module 10
can be used to simulate the behavior of the simpler
Transaction Touch Memory™ (DS 1962) (hereinafter
"TTM") or any similar device or substitute that can
operate in a nearly equivalent or similar fashion.
The principal feature of the TTM is that there is a
counter associated with a block of memory in such a
way that the counter is incremented automatically
10 whenever the contents of the memory block are
changed.

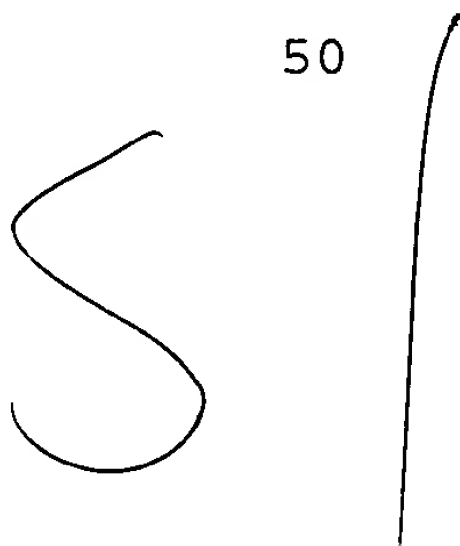
1. Preparation

15 This simple feature can be programmed into the
module 10 by creating a configuration object, a
transaction counter object, and a transaction script
object which combines the contents of the input
object with the value of the transaction counter
object and places them in the configuration object,
incrementing the counter automatically in the
20 process. All three objects 42 are locked, but none
are privatized.

50

2. Usage

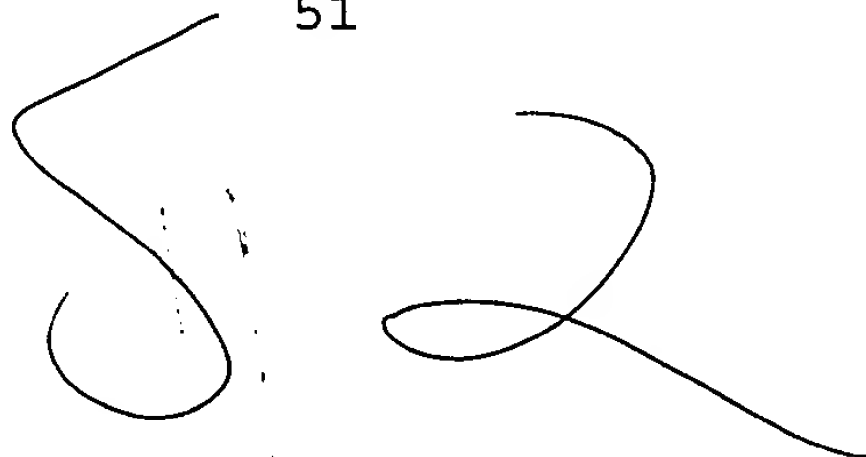
To add or remove money, the End User reads the values of the configuration object and the transaction counter object directly, then decrypts the configuration object and checks the transaction count from the decrypted package against the value of the counter object. The End User also checks the unique lasered registration number from the encrypted packet against the registration number of the module 10. If these both agree, the balance is considered valid. An amount is added to or subtracted from the balance, the transaction count is incremented, and the packet is re-encrypted and stored in the input data object. The transaction script 44 is then invoked to move the data and the transaction counter value to the configuration object, automatically incrementing the counter value in the process. (The transaction script 44 guarantees that the counter object's value will be incremented anytime data in the configuration object is changed.)

A large, stylized handwritten mark, possibly a signature or initials, consisting of a large 'S' shape followed by a vertical line.

This simple operation can be performed relatively quickly since the module 10 does not have to perform any encryption itself. However, as with the TTM, the End User must now use a secure computing facility to perform the encryption and decryption operations. This usage is therefore less protected than those which depend on the module's encryption capabilities.

✓ I. EXEMPLARY TECHNIQUE FOR POSTAL METERING SERVICE

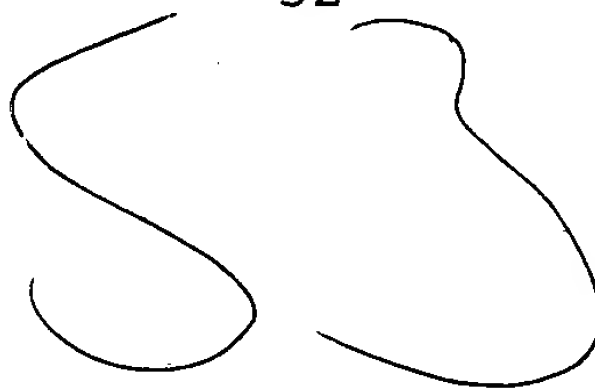
This usage model describes an application in which the module 10 is used to dispense postage certificates. The digital information which constitutes the certificate is printed on the envelope in the form of a two-dimensional barcode which can be read and authenticated by the Service Provider (U.S.P.S.). A computer program running on an ordinary PC attached to a laser printer in combination with the module 10 can be used to print the postage certificates.

A large, stylized handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'S' and 'R', is written in the bottom right corner of the page.

1. Preparation

5 The Service Provider creates a group containing
a money register, a private RSA key (exponent object
and modulus object) common to every module, and a
transaction script 44. The script 44 combines the
SALT and the amount to be withdrawn (provided by the
End User's computer) with the unique lasered
registration number of the module 10, encrypts this
packet with the private key, subtracts the amount
10 withdrawn from the balance, and places the encrypted
certificate in the output object where it can be
read by the PC.

15 The Service Provider initializes the balance
with a specific amount of money, locks the balance
and script 44, privatizes the RSA key objects, and
locks the group so that no more scripts can be
added. The modules prepared in this way can then be
sold over the counter for use with PC-based postage
metering programs.

A large, stylized handwritten mark, possibly a signature or initials, consisting of two large, sweeping loops.

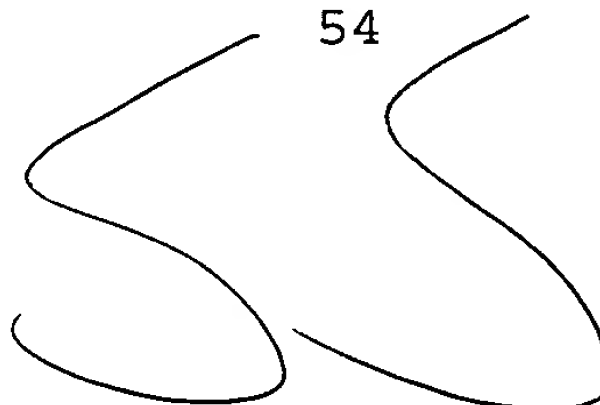
2. Usage

When the first envelope is to be printed, the PC program prepares the first SALT by calculating a one-way hash (e.g., the Secure Hash Standard, FIPS
5 PUB 180) of the date and the unique lasered registration number of the part. This information is passed to the module 10 along with the amount of postage to be withdrawn. The resulting certificate is printed in the two-dimensional barcode along with
10 the hash generation number (one for the first hash), the unique lasered registration number, the plaintext denomination of the stamp, the date, and other information as desired to identify the End User. Subsequent SALTs are generated by performing
15 the one-way hash again on the previous SALT and incrementing the hash generation number.

When the Service Provider receives the envelopes, most of them are taken at face value and the digital barcode is not read. However, a
20 statistical sampling of the barcodes are read and the information provided is decrypted with the

public key and verified. Discrepancies are investigated, and fraud is prosecuted under existing law. Verification is possible because the Service Provider can recreate the SALT from the unique
5 lasered registration number, date, and hash generation number, and thereby verify that the transaction is not only current but also linked to a specific module 10.

Note that there are many possible variations on
10 the method described above, leading to similar results. The most likely fraud would be duplication, in which a user captures the digital information sent to the printer to produce the postage certificate and makes many duplicate copies
15 of the same certificate. This could be detected easily by the Service Provider simply by reading the hash generation number and unique registration number and looking them up in a database to make sure that the user is not duplicating the same
20 certificate. (This check could be performed more

A large, stylized handwritten mark, possibly a signature or initials, consisting of two large, sweeping loops.

often than full certificate verification, which
would require RSA decryption.)

J. SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION SERVICE

5 This usage model describes an application in which
a Service Provider makes available information in
encrypted form over the internet to users who have agreed
to pay for such information. This application works
exactly the same way as the Secure E-mail usage model
described in section A above, except that the Service
10 Provider bills the user for the encrypted information
that the Service Provider e-mails to him. The billing
information is obtained from a registry of public RSA keys
which allows the Service Provider to identify and bill a
user, based on his public key or on the unique lasered
15 serial number of his module 10.

K. REGISTRY WITH GUARANTEED PRIVATE KEY SECURITY

In order to provide Merchants with an independent
confirmation of the identity of an End User, a Service
Provider may wish to maintain a registry containing the
20 public key of a particular module 10 along with the name,

55
56

address, and other identifying information of the person to whom the module 10 is issued. For this purpose, it is essential for the Service Provider to make sure that the public key in the registry corresponds to a private key which is known only to the module 10. In order to guarantee this, the module 10 must be in the possession of the Service Provider at the time the public key is extracted from the module 10 and placed in the registry. After recording this information in the registry, the Service Provider can ship the module 10 to the End User named in the registry.

It is also important for the End User to be able to confirm, when he receives the module 10, that the private key is not known to the Service Provider or any of the Service Provider's employees. This is important because an ideal registry system should not require that any party trust any other party. The system works to everyone's satisfaction only when each party can be convinced that none of the other parties could possibly know the private key.

One way to accomplish this, the Service Provider sends a command to the module 10 to cause it to generate a complete RSA key set using random numbers, and then to automatically make one of the exponents private, so that
5 there is no way any person can discover the value of the private key. This key set has a special type, different from that of a key set programmed into the can by a Service Provider, so that anyone doing business directly with the module 10 can determine for themselves that the
10 private key is known only to the module 10.

1. Preparation

The Service Provider creates a password-protected transaction group 40 for the application, and then creates an RSA key set in the group that is
15 generated by the module 10. (After generating the key set, the modulus and one exponent will be locked automatically, while the second exponent will be privatized automatically by the firmware of the module 10. The Service Provider then creates a
20 transaction script 44 which will encrypt data from the input object with the private key and place the encrypted result in the output object. The

transaction script 44 might optionally append additional information (e.g., the transaction counter) to the data from the input object, in order to satisfy any additional objectives of the application. Other objects 42 and transaction scripts 44 may also be added at the discretion of the Service Provider. The transaction group 40 is locked by the Service Provider when it is complete.

Next, the Service Provider reads the RSA modulus and public exponent from the transaction group 40 and records them in the registry along with the information identifying the End User. Finally, the Service Provider ships the module 10 to the End User, and later conveys to the End User the password that can be used to access the transaction group 40.

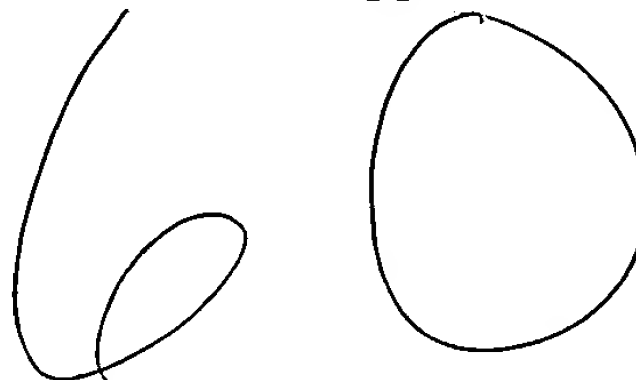
2. Usage

When a Merchant wishes to obtain positive identification of an End User over the Internet or other network, the Merchant generates a unique packet of data and transmits it to the End User, and

59

the End User passes the data into the input object
and invokes the transaction script 44 which causes
it to be encrypted with the private key generated by
the module 10. The resulting encrypted packet is
5 transmitted back to the Merchant. The Merchant then
accesses the data base provided by the Service
Provider to obtain the public key belonging to the
End User, and attempts to decrypt the encrypted
packet using the End User's public key. If the
10 decryption succeeds, the Merchant has proven the
physical presence of the End User's module 10 at the
remotely networked location. By guaranteeing the
presence of the End User's module 10 at the remote
site, this identification validates and legitimizes
15 the contents of the data packet and therefore also
any financial transactions, represented by the
contents of the packet, that may be requested by the
End User.

20 The model described here is one in which the
authority to perform financial transactions derives from
the registry maintained by the Service Provider. It is



therefore essential that this information be accurate and that the private key in the module 10 can be secure from all parties. Because each module 10 has its own unique RSA key set, there is no provision in this model for the
5 module 10 to represent money independently of the registry maintained by the Service Provider. Instead, the registry and the ability of the module 10 to sign with its private key together serve as a definitive means of identifying the End User remotely to any other party.

10 L. TAXATION OF TRANSACTION VOLUME

This usage applies to a business model in which the Service Provider intends to collect a service charge from the End User that is a percentage of the total amount of money transferred by the module 10. This model is
15 similar to those described in sections C D, E, and F above, but with the addition of a destructor object that can cause any particular transaction script 44 to expire at a predetermined date and time. This model also requires the use of an additional money object which is
20 programmed (with a suitable transaction script 44) to

accumulate the total value of all the money passed out of
the module 10.

1. Preparation

5 The Service Provider creates a transaction
group 40 containing money objects, etc. as described
in sections D and E above. The Service Provider
also creates an additional money object to serve as
the volume accumulator. The Service Provider also
creates transaction scripts 44 for withdrawing or
10 depositing money as in D and E, except that the
transaction script for adding money to the module 10
includes a destructor object set to expire at a
predetermined time in the future, and the
transaction script 44 for withdrawing money includes
15 an instruction to add the amount of the withdrawal
to the money object serving as the volume
accumulator. The service provider then locks the
group and ships the module 10 to the End User.

2. Usage.

The End user uses the module 10 for deposits and withdrawals as described in sections D and E above. During the time that the module 10 is used, the cumulative total of all the money spent from the module 10 is accumulated in the money object serving as the volume accumulator. When the time limit expires, the End User can no longer add money to his module 10, although he can continue to withdraw money if desired until there is none left. The End User then returns the module 10 to the Service Provider to be restored. The Service Provider reads the remaining amount of money and also the amount of money recorded in the volume accumulator. The Service Provider bills the End User a service charge that is a percentage of the amount in the volume accumulator. If the End User is willing to pay this amount to continue his service, the transaction group 40 is destroyed and rebuilt, then the amount of money remaining in the module 10 when the End User returned it is programmed back into the money object of the transaction group 40. The Service



Provider then returns the restored module to the End User, provided that the End User pays the service charge.

5 The system described above allows a Service Provider to collect periodic fees for service without having to monitor and be involved in every financial transaction performed by the End user. The fee is based on actual usage, as determined by the contents of the volume register.

T640¹⁰

Exemplary Firmware Definitions for Use With the Module

15 **Object** The most primitive data structure accepted by and operated on by the modules firmware. A list of valid objects and their definitions is provided in the next section.

63

- Group** A self-contained collection of objects. An object's scope is restricted to the group of which it is a member.
- 5 **Group ID** A number preferably between 0 and 255 representing a specific group.
- Object ID** A number preferably between 0 and 255 representing a specific object within a specific group.
- 10 **Object Type** Preferably a 1-byte type specifier that describes a specific object.
- PIN** An alphanumeric Personal Identification number that is preferably eight bytes in length.

Common PIN

5

The PIN that controls access to shared resources such as the audit trail. It is also used to control the host's ability to create and delete groups.

Group PIN

The PIN that controls access to operations specific to objects within a group.

Audit Trail

10

A record of transactions occurring after the module has been locked.

Locked Object

An object which has been locked by executing the lock object command. Once an object is locked it is not directly readable.

15

Private Object

An object which has been privatized by executing the privatize object command. Once an object is private,

it is not directly readable or
writable.

Locked Group

5

A group which has been locked using
the locked group command. After a
group has been locked it will not
allow object creation.

Composite Object

A combination of several objects.
The individual objects inherit the
attributes of the composite object.

T680X

Exemplary Object Definitions

RSA Modulus

5 A large integer preferably of at
most 1024 bits in length. It is the
product of 2 large prime numbers
that are each about half the number
of bits in length of the desired
modulus size. The RSA modulus is
used in the following equations for
encrypting and decrypting a message
10 M:

(1) Encryption: $C = M^e \pmod{N}$

(2) Decryption: $M = C^d \pmod{N}$

15 where C is the cyphertext, d and e
are the RSA exponents (see below),
and N is the RSA modulus.

67
68

RSA Exponent

Both e and d (shown in equations 1 and 2 above) are RSA exponents. They are typically large numbers but are smaller than the modulus (N). RSA exponents can be either private or public. When RSA exponents are created in the module, they may be declared as either. Once created an exponent may be changed from a public exponent to a private exponent. After an exponent has been made private, however, it will remain private until the transaction group 40 to which it belongs is destroyed.

Transaction Script

A transaction script is a series of instructions to be carried out by the module. When invoked the module firmware interprets the instructions in the script and places the results in the output data object (see

below). The actual script is simply
a list of objects. The order in
which the objects are listed
specifies the operations to be
5 performed on the objects.
transaction scripts 44 preferably
may be as long as 128 bytes.

Transaction Counter The transaction counter object is
preferably 4 bytes in length and is
10 usually initialized to zero when it
is created. Every time a
transaction script, which references
this object, is invoked, the
transaction counter increments by 1.
15 Once a transaction counter has been
locked it is read only and provides
an irreversible counter.

Money Register The money register object is
preferably 4 bytes in length and may
20 be used to represent money or some

5 other form of credit. Once this
object has been created, it must be
locked to prevent a user from
tampering with its value. Once
locked the value of this object can
be altered only by invoking a
transaction script. A typical
transaction group 40 which performs
monetary transactions might have one
10 script for withdrawals from the
money register and one for deposits
to the money register.

Clock Offset

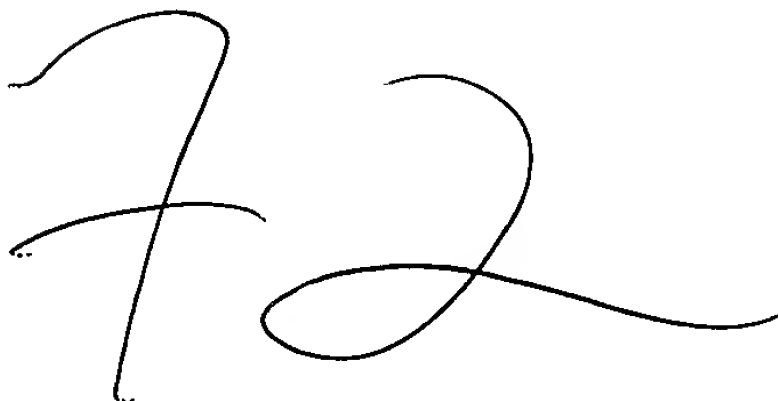
15 This object is preferably a 4 byte
number which contains the difference
between the reading of the module's
real-time clock and some convenient
time (e.g., 12:00 a.m., January 1,
1970). The true time can then be
obtained from the module by adding
20 the value of the clock offset to the
real-time clock.

70
7

SALT

5 A SALT object is preferably 20 bytes
in length and should be initialized
with random data when it is created.
When a host transmits a generate
random SALT command, the module
combines the previous SALT with the
module's random number (produced
preferably by randomly occurring
power-ups) to generate a new random
10 SALT. If the SALT object has not
been privatized it may subsequently
be read by issuing a read object
command.

Configuration Data This is a user defined structure
15 with preferably a maximum length of
128 bytes. This object is typically
used to store configuration
information specific to its
transaction group 40. For example,
20 the configuration data object may be
used to specify the format of the

A large, stylized handwritten mark, possibly a signature or a large number, is written in the bottom right corner of the page. It consists of a large loop and a long horizontal stroke.

money register object (i.e., the type of currency it represents). Since this object has no pre-defined structure, it may never be used by a transaction object.

5

Input Data

An input data object is simply an input buffer with preferably a maximum length of 128 bytes. A transaction group may have multiple input objects. The host uses input data objects to store data to be processed by transaction scripts 44.

10

Output Data

The output data object is used by transaction scripts as an output buffer. This object is automatically created when the transaction group is created. It is preferably 512 bytes in length and inherits password protection from its group.

15

20



Random Fill

5

10

When the script interpreter encounters this type of object it automatically pads the current message so that its length is 1 bit smaller than the length of the preceding modulus. A handle to this object is automatically created when the transaction group is created. It is a private object and may not be read using the read object command.

Working Register

15

This object is used by the script interpreter as working space and may be used in a transaction script. A handle to this object is automatically created when the transaction group is created. It is a private object and may not be read using the read object command.

ROM Data

5

This object is automatically created when the transaction group is created. It is a locked object and may not be altered using the write object command. This object is 8 bytes and length and its contents are identical to the 8 by ROM data of the Micro-In-A-Can™.

Preferred Module Firmware Command Set

10 Set Common PIN(01H)

Transmit (to module)

01H, old PIN, new PIN, PIN option byte

Receive data

CSB (command status byte) = 0 if successful,
15 appropriate error code otherwise

Output length = 0

Output Data = 0

Notes:

The PIN option byte may be the bitwise-or of any of the following values:

T760 X

5	PIN_TO_ERASE	00000001b (require PIN for Master Erase)
	PIN_TO_CREATE	00000010b (require PIN for group creation).

Initially the module has a PIN (Personal Identification Number) of 0 (Null) and an option byte of 0. Once a PIN has been established it can only be changed by providing the old PIN or by a Master Erase. However, if the PIN_TO_ERASE bit is set in the option byte, the PIN can only be changed through the set common PIN command.

15 Possible error codes for the set common PIN command:

T761 X

ERR_BAD_COMMON_PIN	(Common PIN match failed)
--------------------	---------------------------

ERR_BAD_PIN_LENGTH (New PIN length
> 8 bytes)
ERR_BAD_OPTION_BYTE (Unrecognizable option
byte)

5 For all commands described in this section, data
received by the host will be in the form of a return
packet. A return packet has the following structure:

Command status byte (0 if command successful,
error code otherwise, 1 byte)

10 Output data length (Command output length, 2
bytes)

Output data (Command output, length
specified above).

Master Erase (02H)

15 Transmit data

02H, Common PIN

Receive data

CSB = 0 if command was successful,
ERR_BAD_COMMON_PIN otherwise

Output length = 0

5 Output data = 0

Notes:

If the LSB (least significant bit) of the PIN option is clear (i.e. PIN not required for Master Erase) then a 0 is transmitted for the Common PIN value. In general
10 this text will always assume a PIN is required. If no PIN has been established a 0 should be transmitted as the PIN. This is true of the common PIN and group PINS (see below). If the PIN was correct the firmware deletes all groups (see below) and all objects within the groups.
15 The common PIN and common PIN option byte are both reset to zero.

After everything has been erased the module transmits the return packet. The CSB is as described above. The output data length and output data fields are
20 both set to 0.

Create Group (03H)

Transmit data

03H, Common PIN, Group name, Group PIN

Receive data

5 CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate
error code otherwise

Output length = 1 if successful, 0 otherwise

Output data = Group ID if successful, 0
otherwise

10 Notes:

The maximum group name length is 16 bytes and the
maximum PIN length is eight bytes. If the PIN_TO_CREATE
bit is set in the common PIN option byte and the PIN
transmitted does not match the common PIN the module will
15 set the OSC to ERR_BAD_COMMON_PIN.

Possible error return codes for the create group
command:

TS800 X

- ERR_BAD_COMMON_PIN (Incorrect common PIN)
- ERR_BAD_NAME_LENGTH (If group name length > 16 bytes)
- ERR_BAD_PIN_LENGTH (If group PIN length > 8 bytes)
- ERR_MIAC_LOCKED (The module has been locked)
- ERR_INSUFFICIENT_RAM (Not enough memory for new group)

10 Set Group PIN (04H)

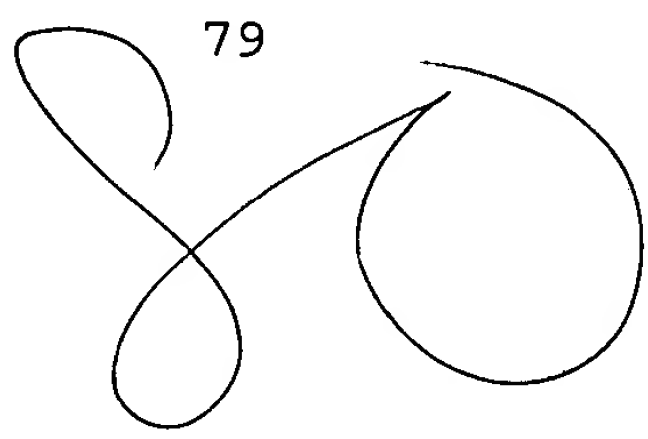
Transmit data

04H, Group ID, old GPIN, new GPIN

Receive data

- CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate error code otherwise
- Output length = 0
- Output data = 0

79



Notes:

The Group PIN only restricts access to objects within the group specified by the group ID transmitted in the command packet.

5 Possible error codes for the set group PIN command:

+810X

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN	(Group PIN match failed)
ERR_BAD_PIN_LENGTH	(New group PIN length > 8 bytes)

10 Create Object (05H)

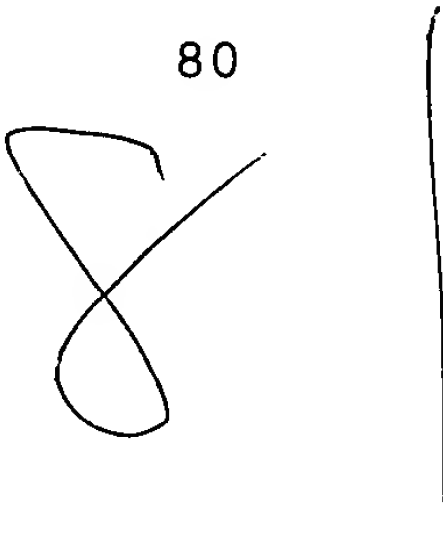
Transmit data

05H, Group ID, Group PIN, Object type, Object attributes, Object data

Receive data

15 CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate error code otherwise

Output length = 1 if successful, 0 otherwise



Output data = object ID if successful, 0
otherwise

Notes:

5 If the Create Object command is successful the
module firmware returns the object's ID within the group
specified by the Group ID. If the PIN supplied by the
host was incorrect or the group has been locked by the
Lock Group command (described below) the module returns
an error code in the CSB. An object creation will also
10 fail if the object is invalid for any reason. For
example, if the object being created is an RSA modulus
(type 0) and it is greater than 1024 bits in length.
transaction script creation will succeed if it obeys all
transaction scripts rules.

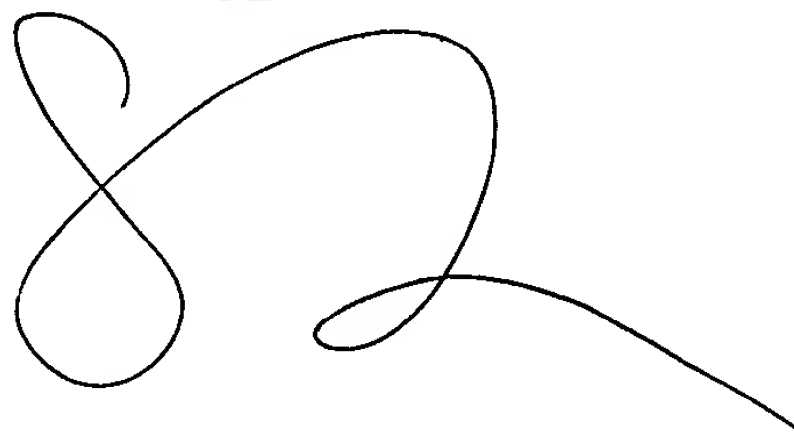
15 Possible error return codes for the create object
command:

T820 X

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN (Incorrect group PIN)

ERR_GROUP_LOCKED (The group has been

locked)



ERR_MIAC_LOCKED (The module has been
locked)

ERR_INVALID_TYPE (The object type
specified is invalid)

5 ERR_BAD_SIZE (The objects length
was invalid)

ERR_INSUFFICIENT_RAM (Not enough memory for
new object)

10	Object types:	RSA modulus	0
		RSA exponent	1
		Money register	2
		Transaction counter	3
		Transaction script	4
15		Clock offset	5
		Random SALT	6
		Configuration object	7
		Input data object	8
		Output data object	9

20	Object Attributes:	Locked	00000001b
		Privatized	00000010b

Objects may also be locked and privatized after creation by using the Lock Object and Privatize Object commands described below.

Lock Object (06H)

5 Transmit data

06H, Group ID, Group PIN, Object ID

Receive data

CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate
error code otherwise

10 Output length = 0

Output data = 0

Notes:

If the Group ID, Group PIN and Object ID are all correct, the module will lock the specified object.

15 Locking an object is an irreversible operation.

Possible error return codes for the lock object command:

T850 X

- ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN (Incorrect group PIN)
- ERR_GROUP_LOCKED (The group has already been locked)
- ERR_MIAC_LOCKED (The module has been locked)
- ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID (Specified group does not exist)
- ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ID (Specified object does not exist)

10 Privatize Object (07H)

Transmit data

07H, Group ID, Group PIN, Object ID

Receive data

- CSB = 0 if successful, appropriate error code
- 15 otherwise

Notes:

If the Group ID, Group PIN and Object ID were valid the object will be privatized. Privatized objects share

all the properties of locked objects but are not
readable. Privatized objects are only modifiable through
transaction scripts. Note that locking a privatized
object is legal, but has no meaning since object
5 privatization is a stronger operation than object
locking. Privatizing an object is an irreversible
operation.

Possible error return codes for the privatize object
command:

T860X
10

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN (Incorrect group PIN)

ERR_GROUP_LOCKED (The group has already
been locked)

ERR_MIAC_LOCKED (The module has been
locked)

15 ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID (Specified group does
not exist)

ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ID (Specified object does
not exist)

Make Object Destructable (08H)

Transmit data

08H, Group ID, Group PIN, Object ID

Receive data

5 CSB = 0 if successful, appropriate error code
otherwise

Notes:

10 If the Group ID, Group PIN and Object ID were valid
the object will be made destructable. If an object is
destructable it becomes unusable by a transaction script
after the groups destructor becomes active. If no
destructor object exists within the transaction group the
destructible object attribute bit has no affect. Making
an object destructable is an irreversible operation.

15 Possible error return codes for the make object
destructable command:

T870X

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN

(Incorrect group PIN)

ERR_GROUP_LOCKED (The group has already
been locked)

ERR_MIAC_LOCKED (The module has been
locked)

5 ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID (Specified group does
not exist)

ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ID (Specified object does
not exist)

Lock Module (09H)

10 Transmit data

09H, Common PIN

Receive data

CSB = 0 if successful, appropriate error code
otherwise

15 Output length = 2 if successful, 0 otherwise

Output data = audit trail size if successful,
0 otherwise

Notes:

5 If the host supplied Common PIN is correct and the module has not previously been locked, the command will succeed. When the module is locked it will not accept any new groups or objects. This implies that all groups are automatically locked. The RAM not used by the system or by groups will be used for an audit trail. There is no audit trail until the module has successfully been locked!

10 An audit trail record is six bytes long and has the following structure:

Group ID | Object ID | Date/Time stamp.

15 Once an audit trail has been established, a record of the form shown above will be stored in the first available size byte location every time a transaction script is executed. Note that since the module must be locked before the audit trail begins, neither the group ID nor any object ID is subject to change. This will always allow an application processing the audit trail to

uniquely identify the transaction script that was executed. Once the audit trail has consumed all of its available memory, it will store new transaction records over the oldest transaction records.

5 Possible error codes for the lock module command:

T900 X
ERR_BAD_COMMON_PIN (Supplied common PIN
was incorrect)

ERR_MIAC_LOCKED (Module was already
locked)

10 Lock Group (0AH)

Transmit data

0AH, Group ID, Group PIN

Receive data

15 CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate
error code otherwise

Output length = 0

Output data = 0

90

Notes:

If the group PIN provided is correct the module BIOS will not allow further object creation within the specified group. Since groups are completely self-contained entities they may be deleted by executing the Delete Group command (described below).

Possible error return codes for the lock group command:

T910X

	ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN	(Incorrect group PIN)
10	ERR_GROUP_LOCKED	(The group has already been locked)
	ERR_MIAC_LOCKED	(The module has been locked)
15	ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID	(Specified group does not exist)

Invoke Transaction Script (0BH)

Transmit data

0BH, Group ID, Group PIN, Object ID

Receive data

5 CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate
error code otherwise

Output length = 1 if successful, 0 otherwise

Output data = estimated completion time

Notes:

10 The time estimate returned by the module is in
sixteenths of a second. If an error code was returned in
the CSB, the time estimate will be 0.

Possible error return codes for the execution
transaction script command:

15

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN

(Incorrect group PIN)

ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID

(Specified group does

not exist)

ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ID (Script object did not
exist in group)

Read Object (0CH)

Transmit data

5 0CH, Group ID, Group PIN, Object ID

Receive data

CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate
error code otherwise

10 Output length = object length if successful, 0
otherwise

Output data = object data if successful, 0
otherwise

Notes:

15 If the Group ID, Group PIN and Object ID were
correct, the module checks the attribute byte of the
specified object. If the object has not been privatized
the module will transmit the object data to the host. If
the Group PIN was invalid or the object has been

privatized the module will return a 0 in the output length, and data fields of the return packet.

Possible error codes for the read object command:

T940X

5

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN (Incorrect group PIN)

ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID (Specified group does

not exist)

ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ID (Object did not exist

in group)

ERR_OBJECT_PRIVATIZED (Object has been

10 privatized)

Write Object (0DH)

Transmit data

0DH, Group ID, Group PIN, Object ID, Object size, Object Data

Receive data

CSB = 0 if successful, appropriate error code
otherwise

Output length = 0

5 Output data = 0

Notes:

10 If the Group ID, Group PIN and Object ID were
correct, the module checks the attribute byte of the
specified object. If the object has not been locked or
privatized the module will clear the objects previous
size and data and replace it with the new object data.
Note that the object type and attribute byte are not
affected.

Possible error codes for the write object command:

~~T 950 X~~
15

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN	(Incorrect group PIN)
ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID	(Specified group does not exist)
ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ID	(Object did not exist in group)

ERR_BAD_OBJECT_SIZE (Illegal object size
specified)

ERR_OBJECT_LOCKED (Object has been
locked)

5 ERR_OBJECT_PRIVATIZED (Object has been
privatized)

Read Group Name (0EH)

Transmit data

0EH, Group ID

10 Receive data

CSB = 0

Output Length = length of group name

Output data = group name

Notes:

15 The group name length is a maximum of 16 bytes. All
byte values are legal in a group name.

Delete Group (0FH)

Transmit data

0FH, Group ID, Group PIN

Receive data

5 CSB = 0 if successful, appropriate error code
otherwise

Output length = 0

Output data = 0

Notes:

10 If the group PIN and group ID are correct the module
will delete the specified group. Deleting a group causes
the automatic destruction of all objects within the
group. If the module has been locked the Delete Group
command will fail.

15 Possible error codes for the delete group command:

T970K

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN

(Incorrect group PIN)

96
97

ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID (Specified group does
not exist)

ERR_MIAC_LOCKED (Module has been
locked)

5 Get Command Status Info (10H)

Transmit data

10H

Receive data

CSB = 0

10 Output length = 6

Output data = module status structure (see
below)

98⁹⁷

Notes:

This operation requires no PIN and never fails. The status structure is defined as follows:

T99DX

5

Last command executed	(1 byte)
Last command status	(1 byte)
Time command received	(4 bytes)

Get Module Configuration Info (11H)

Transmit data

11H

10

Receive data

CSB = 0

Output length = 4

Output data = module configuration structure

Notes:

15

This operation requires no PIN and never fails. The configuration structure is defined as follows:

99

Number of groups (1 byte)
Flag byte (see below) (1 byte)
Audit trail size/Free RAM (2 bytes)

7,1000X

5 The flag byte is the bitwise-or of any of the
following values:

00000001b (Module is locked)
00000010b (Common PIN required for access)

Read Audit Trail Info (12H)

Transmit data

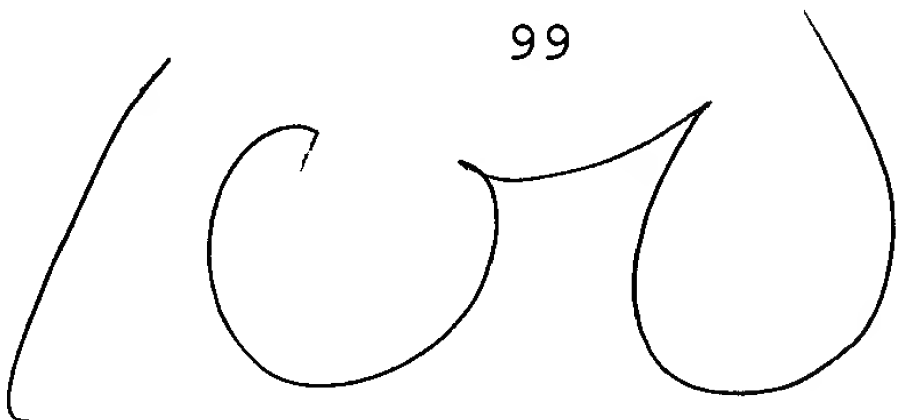
10 12H, Common PIN

Receive data

CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate
error code otherwise

15 Output length = audit trail structure size (5)
if successful, 0 otherwise

Output data = audit trail info structure if
successful, 0 otherwise



Notes:

If the transmitted Common PIN is valid and the module has been locked, it returns audit trail configuration information as follows:

T1010X
5

Number of used transaction records (2 bytes)

Number of free transaction records (2 bytes)

A boolean specifying whether or (1 byte)

not the audit trail rolled

since previous read command

10

Possible error codes for the read audit trail info
command:

T1011X

ERR_BAD_COMMON_PIN (Common PIN was
incorrect)

ERR_MIAC_NOT_LOCKED (Module is not locked)

15

Read Audit Trail (13H)

Transmit data

13H, Common PIN

100

/ 0 /

Receive data

CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate
error code otherwise

Output length = # of new records * 6 if
5 successful, 0 otherwise

Output data = new audit trail records

Notes:

If the transmitted common PIN is valid and the
module has been locked, it will transfer all new
10 transaction records to the host.

Possible error codes for the read audit trail
command:

T1020 X
ERR_BAD_COMMON_PIN (Common PIN was
incorrect)

15 ERR_MIAC_NOT_LOCKED module is not locked

102

Read Group Audit Trail (14H)

Transmit data

14H, Group ID, Group PIN

Receive data

5 CSB = 0 if command successful, appropriate
error code otherwise

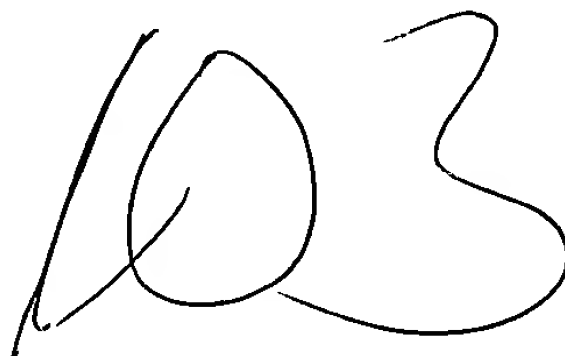
 Output length = # of records for group * 6 if
successful, 0 otherwise

 Output data = audit trail records for group

10 Notes:

 This command is identical to the read audit trail
command, except that only records involving the group ID
specified in the transmit data are returned to the host.
This allows transaction groups to record track their own
15 activities without seeing other groups records.

 Possible error codes for the read group audit trail
command:



T1040X

- ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID (Group ID does not exist)
- ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN (Common PIN was incorrect)
- 5 ERR_MIAC_NOT_LOCKED (The module is not locked)

Read Real Time Clock (15H)

Transmit data
15H, Common PIN

- 10 Receive data
 - CSB = 0 if the common PIN matches and ERR_BAD_COMMON_PIN otherwise
 - Output length = 4
 - Output data = 4 most significant bytes of the
- 15 real time clock

103
104

Notes:

This value is not adjusted with a clock offset.
This command is normally used by a service provider to
compute a clock offset during transaction group creation.

5 Read Real Time Clock Adjusted (16H)

Transmit data

16H, Group ID, Group PIN, ID of offset object

Receive data

CSB = 0 if successful, appropriate error code
10 otherwise

Output length = 4 if successful, 0 otherwise

Output data = Real time clock + clock offset ID

Notes:

15 This command succeeds if the group ID and group PIN
are valid, and the object ID is the ID of a clock offset.
The module adds the clock offset to the current value of
the 4 most significant bytes of the RTC and returns that
value in the output data field. Note that a transaction

105

script may be written to perform the same task and put
the result in the output data object.

Possible error codes for the real time clock
adjusted command:

5

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN

(Incorrect group PIN)

ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID

(Specified group does

not exist)

ERR_BAD_OBJECT_TYPE

(Object ID is not a

clock offset)

10

Get Random Data (17H)

Transmit data

17H, Length (L)

Receive data

CSB = 0 if successful, appropriate error code

15

otherwise

Output length = L if successful, 0 otherwise

Output data = L bytes of random data if
successful

Notes:

This command provides a good source of
5 cryptographically useful random numbers.

Possible error codes for the get random data command
are:

T1070X

ERR_BAD_SIZE (Requested number of bytes
> 128)

10 Get Firmware Version ID (18H)

Transmit data

18H

Receive data

CSB = 0

15 Output length = Length of firmware version ID
string

107

Output data = Firmware version ID string

Notes:

This command returns the firmware version ID as a Pascal type string (length + data).

5 Get Free RAM (19H)

Transmit data

19H

Receive data

CSB = 0

10 Output length = 2

Output data = 2 byte value containing the amount of free RAM

Notes:

15 If the module has been locked the output data bytes will both be 0 indicating that all memory not used by transaction groups has been reserved for the audit trail.

107
108

Change Group Name (1AH)

Transmit data

1AH, Group ID, Group PIN, New Group name

Receive data

5 CSB = 0 if successful or an appropriate error
code otherwise

Output length = 0

Output data = 0

Notes:

10 If the group ID specified exists in the module and
the PIN supplied is correct, the transaction group name
is replaced by the new group name supplied by the host.
If a group ID of 0 is supplied the PIN transmitted must
be the common PIN. If it is correct, the module name is
15 replaced by the new name supplied by the host.

Possible error codes for the change group name
command:

108
109

T1100X

Patent Application
Docket #20661/457

ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN

(Incorrect group PIN)

ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID

(Specified group does

not exist)

ERR_BAD_NAME_LENGTH (New group name > 16 bytes)

ERROR CODE DEFINITIONS

ERR_BAD_COMMAND (80H)

This error code occurs when the module firmware does not recognize the command just transmitted by the host.

5 ERR_BAD_COMMON_PIN (81H)

This error code will be returned when a command requires a common PIN and the PIN supplied does not match the module's common PIN. Initially the common PIN is set to 0.

10 ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN (82H)

Transaction groups may have their own PIN, FIGURE 11. If this PIN has been set (by a set group PIN command) it must be supplied to access any of the objects within the group. If the Group PIN supplied does not
15 match the actual group PIN, the module will return the ERR_BAD_GROUP_PIN error code.

ERR_BAD_PIN_LENGTH (83H)

There are 2 commands which can change PIN values.
The set group PIN and the set common PIN commands. Both
of these require the new PIN as well as the old PIN. The
5 ERR_BAD_PIN_LENGTH error code will be returned if the old
PIN supplied was correct, but the new PIN was greater
than 8 characters in length.

ERR_BAD_OPTION_BYTE (84H)

The option byte only applies to the common PIN.
10 When the set common PIN command is executed the last byte
the host supplies is the option byte (described in
command section). If this byte is unrecognizable to the
module, it will return the ERR_BAD_OPTION_BYTE error
code.

15 ERR_BAD_NAME_LENGTH (85H)

When the create transaction group command is
executed, one of the data structures supplied by the host

is the group's name. The group name may not exceed 16 characters in length. If the name supplied is longer than 16 characters, the ERR_BAD_NAME_LENGTH error code is returned.

5

ERR_INSUFFICIENT_RAM (86H)

The create transaction group and create object commands return this error code when there is not enough heap available in the module.

ERR_MIAC_LOCKED (87H)

10

When the module has been locked, no groups or objects can be created or destroyed. Any attempts to create or delete objects will generate an ERR_MIAC_LOCKED error code.

ERR_MIAC_NOT_LOCKED (88H)

If the module has not been locked there is no audit trail. If one of the audit trail commands is executed this error code will be returned.

5

ERR_GROUP_LOCKED (89H)

Once a transaction group has been locked object creation within that group is not possible. Also the objects attributes and types are frozen. Any attempt to create objects or modify their attribute or type bytes will generate an ERR_GROUP_LOCKED error code.

10

ERR_BAD_OBJECT_TYPE (8AH)

When the host sends a create object command to the module, one of the parameters it supplies is an object type (see command section). If the object type is not recognized by the firmware it will return an ERR_BAD_OBJECT_TYPE error code.

15

ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ATTR (8BH)

When the host sends a create object command to the module, one of the parameters it supplies is an object attribute byte (see command section). If the object attribute byte is not recognized by the firmware it will
5 return an ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ATTR error code.

ERR_BAD_SIZE (8CH)

An ERR_BAD_SIZE error code is normally generated when creating or writing an object. It will only occur
10 when the object data supplied by the host has an invalid length.

ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID (8DH)

All commands that operate at the transaction group level require the group ID to be supplied in the command
15 packet. If the group ID specified does not exist in the module it will generate an ERR_BAD_GROUP_ID error code.

ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ID (8EH)

All commands that operate at the object level require the object ID to be supplied in the command packet. If the object ID specified does not exist within the specific transaction group (also specified in the command packet) the module will generate an ERR_BAD_OBJECT_ID error code.

ERR_INSUFFICIENT_FUNDS (8FH)

If a script object that executes financial transactions is invoked and the value of the money register is less than the withdrawal amount requested an ERR_INSUFFICIENT_FUNDS error code will be returned.

ERR_OBJECT_LOCKED (90H)

Locked objects are read only. If a write object command is attempted and it specifies the object ID of a locked object the module will return an ERR_OBJECT_LOCKED error code.

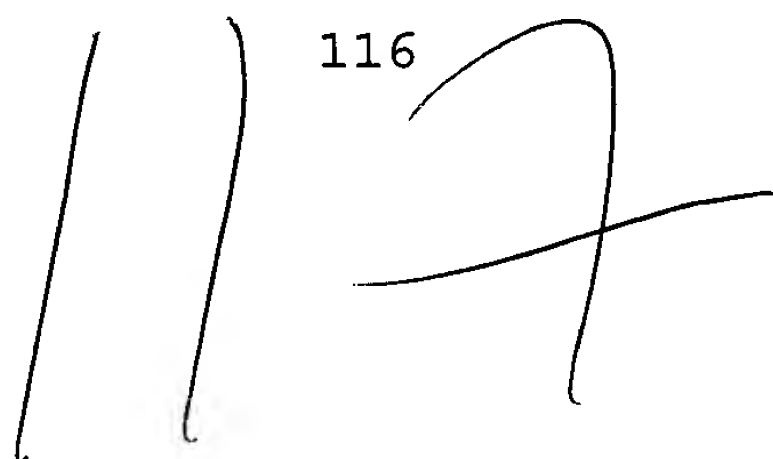
ERR_OBJECT_PRIVATE (91H)

Private objects are not directly readable or writable. If a read object command or a write object command is attempted, and it specifies the object ID of
5 a private object, the module will return an ERR_OBJECT_PRIVATE error code.

ERR_OBJECT_DESTROYED (92H)

If an object is destructible and the transaction group's destructor is active the object may not be used
10 by a script. If a script is invoked which uses an object which has been destroyed, an ERR_OBJECT_DESTROYED error code will be returned by the module.

The exemplary embodiment of the present invention is preferably placed within a durable stainless steel,
15 token-like can. It is understood that an exemplary module can be placed in virtually any articulatable item.

116


Examples of articulatable items include credit cards, rings, watches, wallets, purses, necklaces, jewelry, ID badges, pens, clipboards, etc.

5 The module preferably is a single chip "trusted computer". By the word "trusted" it is meant that the computer is extremely secure from tampering by unwarranted means. The module incorporates a numeric coprocessor optimized for math intensive encryption. The BIOS is preferably immune to alteration and specifically
10 designed for very secure transactions.

Each module can have a random "seed" generator with the ability to create a private/public key set. The private key never leaves the module and is only known by the module. Furthermore, discovery of the private key is
15 prevented by active self-destruction upon wrongful entry into the module. The module can be bound to the user by a personal identification number (PIN).

When transactions are performed by the module certificates of authentication are created by either or

both the module and a system the module communicates with. The certificate can contain a variety of information. In particular, the certificate may contain:

- 5 1) who is the module user via a unique registration number.
- 2) when the transaction took place via a true-time stamping of the transaction.
- 3) where the transaction took place via a registered module interface site
10 identification.
- 4) security information via uniquely serialized transactions and digital signatures on message digests.
- 5) module status indicated as valid, lost, or
15 expired.

Although a preferred embodiment of the method and apparatus of the present invention has been illustrated in the accompanying Drawings and described in the foregoing Detailed Description, it will be understood
5 that the invention is not limited to the embodiment disclosed, but is capable of numerous rearrangements, modifications and substitutions without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth and defined by the following claims.